

# The Punta Gorda Herald

PUNTA GORDA — In Tropical Southwest Florida, a Seaport on the Famous Charlotte Harbor — a Town that is Known for its Natural Attractions and the Hospitality of a Cosmopolitan Citizenship

VOLUME XXIV — NUMBER 26

PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA, THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 1916.

5c. A COPY; \$1.50 A YEAR

## CULTURE OF PINEAPPLES

Interestingly Discussed by Leading East Coast Grower

### PROFITABLE FLORIDA CROP

The Best Known and Most Popular Varieties are Mentioned and Methods of Cultivation Described—Marketing Touched Upon.

The finest flavored pineapples in the world are grown in Florida. There are three varieties that find a ready market: the Red Spanish, Abbaka, sometimes called the "sugar loaf," and the Smooth Cayenne.

Other varieties have been grown in the past, Queen and Porto Ricos, but have been discarded for the more profitable kinds.

The Red Spanish leads in popularity with the market, the consumer and the grower as it is the best seller, the most distinctive in flavor and the most prolific, long lived and profitable.

The Abbaka, the Piña Blanca of Cuba, belongs to the so called fancy varieties, is prolific of fruit, slips and trouble. It is practically free from fibre, juicy and sweet in summer but sour in winter as are other varieties. It is considered to be a bad shipper—if bruised it spoils quickly. To get it to market, the utmost care must be taken in its handling and it must be rushed to its destination by fast express. The fruit is large, long and rather conical in shape, with a large crown.

The Smooth Cayenne is grown mostly on the West Coast in the vicinity of Punta Gorda though a few are grown on the East Coast. This is also one of the fancy varieties, large, juicy tender flesh, and sweet in summer. It is said that under ideal conditions a single fruit has been grown to weigh 45 pounds.

Both the Abbaka and the Smooth Cayenne grow to large size, are similar in texture and juice content, easily bruised, but sweet and delicious and are considered by many to be the "aristocrats of the pineapple family."

In Hawaii the Smooth Cayenne is grown for canning purposes and it has been reported that shipments of the fresh fruit have been discontinued to the United States owing to the danger of bringing the Mediterranean fruit fly.

Hawaii ships about \$6,000,000 worth of canned pineapples into the United States. The industry in Hawaii was a profitable business for the grower a few years ago when there were only a few fields and the grower received a remunerative price for the fruit but as planters were induced to plant more and more of the fruit, the price gradually came down till now the grades of the fruit sell for from \$5 to \$10.00 a ton to the canneries.

The Smooth Cayennes of the West Coast are grown under slatted sheds costing about \$800 per acre, to protect the fruit from the hot tropical sun and the possibility of a frost. On the East Coast there are a few sheds left but owing to the cost of a shed which lasts only about ten years, the insurance is too costly and most of the fruit is now grown in the open.

On the East Coast the pineapples are grown on a high ridge of sand fronting on the Indian river, and a few are grown on the flat woods land lying farther to the west. The lower the land the more danger of frost and flood, and the land is thrown up into beds with a ditch or alley between beds, while on the ridge there is no necessity of doing this as the land is thirsty and porous so there is perfect drainage.

Generally pineapples seem to prefer the poorer sand soils while the fancy varieties will do well on the richer, heavier soils where the Red Spanish will not do so well.

The characteristic growth on the ridge land is hickory, scrub oak (not black jack oak), and spruce pine. The flat woods

(Continued on last page)

## Charlotte Harbor Bridge and Improvements in Connection Will Mean Great Things for Punta Gorda

The bridge across the bay at this point connecting Charlotte Harbor and Punta Gorda and putting the two towns on the direct route of the Tamiami Trail, which has been recognized as a part of the Dixie Highway, is going to prove a bigger thing for this section than most people think.

Authorized by the voters in the election creating the Charlotte Harbor special road and bridge district, it is an assured improvement,

plans for which and matters connected therewith are now engaging the attention of the commissioners and the engineers.

Hon. Wm. M. Whitten, member from this district of the board of commissioners, is investigating the feasibility of substituting retaining walls and fill wide enough for two or more rows of trees each side of a wide driveway extending out for three or four thousand feet from the opposite shores, beautifying, forming a part of

the bridge and making a more durable improvement.

If found feasible, as is hoped and seems probable, the carrying out of Mr. Whitten's idea will be one of the finest things yet suggested for making this locality more attractive to the visitor. And Mr. Whitten will deserve undivided credit for it.

This idea with the fact that the construction of the bridge and the improvement of a few miles of road will put Punta Gorda on two

routes of the Dixie Highway—the Tamiami Trail and the auxiliary route south from Arcadia—will give the town more prestige and place it abreast of the important Florida resorts, both with winter and summer visitors.

With the building of good roads and better bridges in conjunction with the increased attention being given truck farming and fruit growing, the dawn of a new era of progress and prosperity is imminent in this section.

## COMING TO CARRANZA

Followers of the Several Bandit Chiefs in Mexico

### BREACH IS ABOUT HEALED

By the Possibility of War With the United States—Bridges are Heavily Guarded—The National Guard Expected on Border.

El Paso, Texas—Evidence that the possibility of war with the United States has healed the breach between the Carranza and Villa factions in Mexican politics continues to increase here. More than 100 wealthy Mexicans who prior to the surrender of the Villa garrison of Juarez last January, had been active in supporting the bandit leader and who since have been refugees in El Paso, crossed the Rio Grande and apparently were received in good favor by authorities of the de facto government. Hand bills printed in Spanish, asserted that Villa himself had been pledged to support the Carranza government in the event of a break with the United States, were circulated in Juarez and to some extent in the Mexican quarter of El Paso.

Reports indicated, however, that the bandit chieftain has not yet joined forces but with a body of his troops is somewhere in the Rio Florida district of southern Chihuahua, awaiting developments in the crisis. Gen. Manuel Medina, formerly Villa's chief of staff, and Gen. Jose Ysabel Robles, minister of war in the Gutierrez cabinet, were guests Tuesday of Gen. Francisco Gonzalez, commandant in Juarez. It was reported here that they, both of whom have directed extensive military campaigns in northern Chihuahua, are to be assigned to important commands in General Trevino's army of the north.

### Cientificos get From Under Ban

Private advices here said that several hundred men of the force of 10,000 Mexican troops which have been concentrated at Bustillos, seventy miles west of Chihuahua City, for the ostensible purpose of blockading any attempted American advance down the Mexican Northwestern railway toward the capital, formerly were members of bandit bands, scattered and broken by General Pershing's troops. Operating in conjunction with it was said are the commands of Calixto, and Canuto Reyes, the Villa leaders who recently were granted amnesty by General Trevino. Well informed Mexicans here said they had been told that only a few of the cientifico faction, the wealthy land owners of the republic, are still under the ban of authorities of the de facto government. Gen. Marcelino Caraveo, former Orcoz leader and adherent of Huerta, is now occupying a command at the Mexican field base at Villa Ahumada.

With the American demands before Carranza, the heaviest guard yet maintained is bivouacked about the two international bridges. From the Mexican side came reports that practically the entire former garrison was withdrawn to Villa Ahumada, eighty-three miles south. It is said a large command is entrenching there. Two troop trains, to one of which is attached General Gonzalez' private car, and two cars of foodstuffs, are waiting in Juarez to carry the remnant of the garrison to the field base should hostilities develop. Preparations for the receipt of national guards and the two additional batteries of the Fifth field artillery, ordered to take station in El Paso, are being made. It is believed that the soldiers will arrive right away.

Did you ever reflect on the relation of livestock and legumes to community prosperity? Legumes and livestock stay pretty close to the bank account and they are closer still to the fertility of the soil. Think of the wealthiest states in the Union and then see if they do not grow a great many legumes and a great deal of livestock.

## Courts to Decide Who Has Been Nominated Governor

The Jacksonville Times-Union of last Thursday contains the following, which engages great interest throughout Florida:

That the nomination for governor is to be settled in the courts of the state, is no longer a question of doubt.

W. V. Knott, candidate in the primary of June 6, decided after a consultation with his friends from all sections of the state to contest the nomination of Sidney J. Catts, who, upon the face of official returns from fifty of the fifty-two counties, and two counties unofficial, has a lead of 176 votes.

The general confusion of the voting, counting and canvassing of the second choice votes has brought about an element of uncertainty that is so general, that a question of doubt is felt by a large percentage of those who voted in the primary that the face of the returns are not the correct expression of those voting. It is estimated on reliable information that the second choice votes were not counted, or were so incorrectly tallied, that the county canvassing boards could not canvass these in more than 100 precincts of the state. These precincts in which the second choice votes were not counted, embrace between fifteen hundred and two thousand votes. It is contended by Mr. Knott that these votes should be counted and that he should have those that were intended for him and those that were intended for Mr. Catts should be credited to Mr. Catts.

Thomas B. Adams and Major A. B. Small have been retained by Mr. Knott here in Jacksonville and they will be assisted by local attorneys in the counties in which the contest proceedings will be filed at once in several of the counties of the state in order that the question of who is the Democratic nominee may be known in the shortest possible time.

Mr. Knott's Statement  
Mr. Knott yesterday issued the following signed statement of his position:

"To the Democratic Voters of Florida: The latest data available from returns sent to Tallahassee indicate that Mr. Catts will claim the lead by not exceeding 176 votes.  
"Ever since the primary, however, my friends from all parts of the state have been collecting evidence, which I now have in hand, of widespread irregularities and mistakes in counting ballots and making returns.  
"In many places second choice votes, the majority of which were in my favor, were not counted at all. In other places the inspectors, not understanding how to properly credit second choice votes, failed to make intelligent returns to the canvassing boards. In other places the election inspectors, becoming weary with tedious counting or for other reasons, allowed outsiders who were friends of my opponent to assist in counting and tallying ballots. In other places the secrecy of the ballot and the integrity of the polling place was not preserved. In places where the vote was large for my opponent, more votes were cast or at least reported cast than there were voters on the registration list. In other places persons belonging to

other political parties or otherwise disqualified, were allowed to vote when known to the inspectors that they would vote for my opponent.

"Besides these, various other kinds of mistakes and irregularities have been made either intentionally on the part of inspectors or by reason of misunderstanding the complicated provisions of the primary law. Similar information is reaching me hourly from all parts of the state.

"If I could believe that I have been fairly and honestly defeated, I would submit without a word, but, with the mass of evidence before me, which is hourly increasing, I am forced to the conclusion that a fair and accurate count would show that I was nominated by several thousand majority.

Justice to Friends  
"If I did not fight to assert my rights I would not be doing justice to my thousands of friends nor to myself.

"Mr. Catts has gone into the court in Alachua county for the purpose of trying to secure seventy-four votes to be counted for him, alleging that these seventy-four votes are necessary to secure his nomination, from which it must be admitted that he recognizes the vote to be exceedingly close on the returns that have been made.

For my part, I am willing and shall insist that the vote cast in every precinct in the state where there is evidence of incorrect returns by reason of irregularities, mistakes or otherwise, shall be fairly and accurately recounted.

"No one should be opposed to an open investigation. Such investigation will not change the result where the election has been held fairly and the result accurately returned. No honest Democrat desires otherwise. Such an investigation and recount will tend to purify the ballot box in the future.

"I am satisfied that a majority of the Democratic voters of the state have cast their vote for me and I feel bound in duty to do all in my power to have their vote accurately counted and the result accurately and speedily declared.

"In taking this action I have the assurance that I am meeting the wishes of the large majority of Democratic voters in Florida.

"I have directed mandamus proceedings, seeking a recount of the votes, to be filed in several counties already, and others will follow before the end of the week.

"I wish to express my appreciation of the cooperation and support thus far given me by my friends throughout the state in getting together the information sent me from all sections and also their assurance of further cooperation in making this fight on behalf of the Democratic majority of the state of Florida."—W. V. KNOTT.

### Rascality in Elections

Every man who knows him regards Editor Storrs of the DeFuniak Springs Breeze, as an honest, fearless writer. Discussing the Knott-Catts contest, he says: "There has not been an honest election held in Florida since the war. It began with the manipulation of the ignorant negroes by the carpet baggers. Men have been elected to high offices in the

state as a reward for the number of times they voted and how they counted the votes in 1876, the debauchery of the ballot then justified by the previous ballot box stuffing by the republicans and the necessity for having a white man's government.

"We do not have to go outside Walton county to find a man given a county commissionership as a reward for hiding a ballot box in a swamp to prevent an election being held. The condition of affairs unearthed in Crestview in 1902 is still fresh in the minds of many, and sworn allegations made show that conditions were as bad there this year as then. Mutilated return sheets to defeat a candidate for sheriff show the length to which these things were carried. In Bay county ballot boxes and returns were stolen from the court house.

"Four years ago it was an open secret that money was used to carry this county for Underwood. How different was it this year in reference to other candidates?

"These instances can be multiplied by the hundred to show how far reaching is the debauchery of the ballot. Neither the Bryan primary law nor the Trammell corrupt practice act is responsible. These things are so because the people generally do not know of them.

"If this investigation is started let it go to the bottom of things without fear or favor. A considerable number of erstwhile respectable Floridians may join an emigration society or get employment without pay except board and striped clothes, but the state will be benefited in both instances. Let the people once know how these things are done, who does them and why they are done, and for a time at least we will have honest elections in Florida and the gain would be worth the cost."

To which is added the following from the Lakeland Telegram:

It would seem that any candidate who apparently lacks only a few votes of a nomination would want to look into things when such doings took place in conducting the election as are reported from Okaloosa county. In one precinct a candidate received only seven votes, whereas fifteen men have made affidavits that they voted for him. In another precinct one of the managers became sick and had to leave the voting place, and another became intoxicated and his place was filled by a man who had never been sworn to serve. If like conditions prevailed in many Florida counties on election day, the result in a close race might easily be changed by a close investigation.

### Knott's Course Approved

No man whose right to the Governorship of this State was contested by a claim of only 176 votes, and who would sit idly by and see the honor taken from him, without investigating the correctness of the count, especially in view of the known confusion attending the count of ballots at this primary. On the face of the returns, one man claims the State's highest office by 176 votes. Three or four votes counted incorrectly in each county of the State would change the result. A man who would not look after his rights under such circumstances,

would be unworthy of the support that was given him. A man who would have the governorship with such a cloud of uncertainty hanging over it, is unworthy of it. Let there be a satisfying investigation, a fair count, and then let everyone abide by the result.—Lakeland Telegram.

The Star does not think it is fair to Mr. Knott to insinuate that he may be the Rutherford B. Hayes of Florida, if he wins in his contest against Catts. We do not think Mr. Knott has any of the Hayes spirit. If he thinks he has more votes than Catts, it is his right and his duty to the people to try to have them counted. Mr. Knott will make a much better governor than Catts. Notwithstanding this, if Catts has one vote more than Knott, he should have the nomination. And if Knott has one more than Catts, the nomination should go to him.—Ocala Star.

This paper said some days ago that Mr. Knott owed it to himself and his friends as well as to the democratic party to take advantage of all the rights the law guarantees him to secure his seat as governor of Florida. Eliminating all thought of self and friends, he owes that much for the preservation of the democratic party from its threatened disruption and ruin, and we are glad to learn from the Times-Union of Thursday that he has brought legal proceedings to have the votes retabulated. If a majority of the first and second choice ballots were voted for him, he should be seated; but, if he lacks even one of being the choice over his antagonist, the contention should immediately end. Mr. Knott would not have the election nor would his friends permit him to have it unless he is fairly and beyond all doubt entitled to it. If Catts has won by a single vote, no true democrat would try to defraud him of his rights.—Ocala Banner.

Aside from the expense and trouble that this will cost Mr. Catts and his friends, we would be glad, very glad to see it, and if this expense could be borne by the state, it would be worth all it cost the people in showing them, if it were carried, as it should be, to the extent of an opening of every ballot box in the state and a re-count of the votes under the eyes of the courts, just how little their votes as cast, have, and have had, to do with the results of the elections as proclaimed. If it resulted in giving the nomination to Mr. Knott, by showing that he was the choice of the people, well and good, he would be entitled to it.

We do not doubt, however, that it would show that Mr. Catts has a far bigger majority than the returns show him to have. There was evidence enough disclosed in the altering of returns shown to prove this.—DeFuniak Springs Breeze.

### Catts the Nominee

The state canvassing board, sitting at Tallahassee Monday afternoon, declared that Hon. Sidney J. Catts had received a majority of 260 votes and is, therefore, the legal nominee for governor. This action does not stop the contest inaugurated by Hon. W. V. Knott.